

A JOURNEY WITH STRANGE BEDFELLOWS
AUTHOR INSIGHTS & BACK-STORY “SECRETS”

More goes into a story than what ends up on the page.

~ Jan C J Jones

GENERAL

“A Journey With Strange Bedfellows” is a Victorian Gothic horror (steampunk "lite") story (suitable for ages 12 and up) that is a “mash-up” of six (6) lesser known, immortal short stories (with timeless, relevant messages) originally penned by “strange” literary masters Nathaniel Hawthorne, Bram Stoker, Jack London, Jerome K. Jerome, Wilkie Collins, and Hector H. “Saki” Munro. These resurrected stories are melded into a single, harrowing adventure that follows Hunter Brown on a quest to find true love in Faith Geibel who protects (and is the handiwork of) a centuries old secret. In a surprise ending, Hunter must sacrifice all to ensure Faith's continued existence.

The graphic novel was adapted from a 2-hour long audio drama that received a Mark Time Ogle Award for excellence in audio storytelling and was featured as an “Official Listening Selection” at the HEAR Now: The Audio Fiction and Audio Arts Festival. Together, the graphic novel and audio drama (along with a S.T.E.A.M core curriculum educational guide) work as a “listen, look, learn” literacy education package that can align with public, private, and home-school programs, both secular and non-secular.

“Journey” also pays homage to popular themes found in similar tales like “Beauty and the Beast,” “Frankenstein,” and other creature transformation narratives and asks, “What is one willing to sacrifice (or do) to obtain true love?” This may encompass making changes and / or acceptance of a situation, or someone, deemed “outside the norm.”

If you find opportunity to read the authors’ original stories (and I encourage that you to do), you should “hear” a distinctly different, unique “voice” that is inherent for each author in his writing style that includes cadence, vocabulary, sentence structure, narrative and language patterns. During the adaptation process, considerable effort was taken to 1) preserve and maintain the original authors’ tone and intended themes / moralities while 2) working to balance consistency in presentation that would hopefully align with current literary standards and understandable to the majority of students.

ORIGINAL STORIES AND THEMES:

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| 1. <i>The Dancing Partner</i> by Jerome K. Jerome | -Be careful what you wish for; revere the potential of karma |
| 2. <i>A Wicked Woman</i> by Jack London | -Innocence vs. ignorance |
| 3. <i>A Traveler’s Tale of a Terribly Strange Bed</i> by William Wilkie Collins | -Be wary of others’ intentions |
| 4. <i>Young Goodman Brown</i> by Nathaniel Hawthorne | -People may not be as they seem (as hypocrites) |
| 5. <i>The Music on the Hill</i> by H.H. “Saki” Munro | -Don’t take nature’s (or God’s) wrath for granted; don’t ignore it |
| 6. <i>Dracula’s Guest</i> by Bram Stoker | -Curiosity can be dangerous; discovery, innovation, and invention create both positive and negative outcomes |

How were the 6 classic stories chosen? A great deal of time was spent researching public domain, classic short stories that were either written during, or available to readers of, the Victorian era. My goal was to identify stories that would provide specific “story beats” which would correctly align with an emotionally satisfying story structure.

Why is the inside front cover blank? This blank page is intended to be used by the student, school and/or library for applying their identification or tracking system. It can also be used for obtaining signatures (from the book’s creators) or for other notations, especially in using sticky notes.

Why are some pages numbered and others not? Only the actual story pages... count (are important) and it involves basic math and facilitating a Page Game.

1. In asking students to turn to a specific page, unbeknownst to them, they deduce and perform basic math.

2. Where numbered, only the even numbered pages are numbered. The side the page numbers appear on alternate with each of the 4 parts of the story. With Part One, the numbers appear on the right-side page; with Part Two, the page numbers appear on the left side page, and so forth. Knowing this, readers can surmise in which of the 4 parts of the story a specific page is located. [Given this information, and without opening the book, a game can be played that relies on deductive reasoning.]
 - a. Example: The page numbered 44 appears on the left side page. In which of the 4 parts of the (120 page) story does this page appear? [Answer: Part 1] -- (Quarter sections of the story contain varying quantities of pages, so the deduction process can become trickier, more challenging and possibly more fun.)

Part One = 37 pages	Part Three = 28 pages
Part Two = 34 pages	Part Four = 21 pages
 - b. Trickier (page mystery) problems can be created by employing more clues that pertain to odd numbered pages or specific events that occur in the story.
3. Some even pages lack numbers as the location where the printed number might ordinarily occur would spoil or detract from the story and/or the artwork.
4. **FLASH RESEARCH CHALLENGE:** When appropriate, educators may elect to initiate “flash research” challenges where students use smart devices to instantaneously research a topic then use discovered (and noted/recorded) facts for immediate classroom discussion. Points (“paid” as markers / chips / glass rocks, etc.) may be earned by students to be used later for extra credit.

PART ONE (Pages 1 – 37)

STORY 1: *The Dancing Partner* by Jerome K. Jerome (Begins page 4)

PURPOSE - Introduction to the Victorian time period (science, technology, curiosities, dress, customs, etc.) Introduces and sets up the concepts of attraction, intrigue, mystery, and desire while warning, “Be careful of what you wish for” and / or hold reverence for the potential of karma.

1- A) TITLE / Title page: “A Journey With Strange Bedfellows”

- 1) **DISCUSSION:** Who are the “strange bedfellows?” - Nathaniel Hawthorne, Bram Stoker, Jack London, Jerome K. Jerome, Wilkie Collins, and Hector H. “Saki” Munro.
- 2) **DISCUSSION:** Why are these authors described as “strange?” – Many people around these creative individuals thought them “strange” for writing stories containing morbid, dark, bizarre, and/or paranormal elements.

1- B) PAGE 1 / PAGES 119 - 120 – DISCUSSION: What is the significance of the crystal vase containing the rose?

- 1) Indicates that the story began in the present but was told in retrospect.
- 2) Symbolically indicated Hunter’s goal; to pursue and obtain something beautiful while realizing the danger involved.
- 3) Pays homage to the story, “Beauty and the Beast.”

1- C) PAGE 2 – DISCUSSION: What is indicated when Hunter states, “Man is no more born a predator than woman is born his prey” and “Although we males engage in the chase, the female is more adept in the capture.”?

- 1) Hunter is foreshadowing what he learned from the “journey” that he’s about to recount (for the reader).
- 2) Hunter indicates that sometimes a situation appears to be “pursuit” (a hunt) but may actually be enticement that lures a victim into a trap.
- 3) **X-TREME DETAILS:** in one scene the newspaper depicts a skeletal arm pulling the cord that tightens a woman’s corset, symbolizing that such a “conveyance” (garment) leads to a woman’s possible injury,

suffocation and / or death. This cautionary tale encourages women to “break free” of those mechanisms (situations) that bound and constrain them. DISCUSSION: Of what conventions have women broken free, or continue their struggle to break free? (The right to vote, own property, achieve various types of equality, etc.)

1- D) PAGE 2 - DISCUSSION: What is indicated when Hunter states “Predator becomes prey. Innocence mistook for evil. Evil... innocence.”?

- 1) Again, Hunter foreshadows what lesson he learned during his “journey.”
- 2) With Hunter’s initial encounters with the werewolf, Hunter presumed it to be threatening and “evil,” but Hunter learned that it wasn’t. The werewolf was a man who had sacrificed himself (all) for Faith. This scenario parallels situations where a person or people sacrifice themselves for a cause or belief.
- 3) Hunter foreshadows his final decision and what happened to him by the end of the “journey” referencing not only his transforming from weak to strong, as well as, to confront something much more formidable (werewolf) than himself and having to make a difficult decision that required him to sacrifice life as he knew it.

1- E) PAGE 4 – DISCUSSION: What does Hunter’s narrative indicate about the social gathering?

- 1) Historically as today, sexuality has been a part of the social arena in all cultures. Victorians had strict rules regarding behaviors and communication between men and women who were attracted to one another.

DISCUSSION: Research and discuss some of those behaviors / rules-of-engagement.

- 2) Hunter notes the mixed messages are being physically presented by the women, emphasizing again the confusion in identifying / differentiating the pursuers versus the pursued.
- 3) The females’ dresses / costumes present conflicting messages to the males. One portion is alluring while another represents (poses) a formidable challenge; a dilemma that only the more confident (more mature) males will undertake. During this time period, this situation is possibly a test that “separates the men from the boys” and aids the females in determining “who is fitter among the species.”

DISCUSSION: What “dos and don’ts” are observed today between males and females who are interested in one another?

EDUCATORS’ DEFENSE: *On the grounds that human sexuality and courtship (and the fears and insecurities associated with it) are legitimate topics for literary examination and that (more easily) supernatural literature forms part of the literary canon and can be studied profitably with respect to psychological and religious themes (fear of the unknown, awe at the numinous, good and evil, and how fiction allows us to explore our responses and reactions to each). [C.R., Master of Education, Graduate Diploma of Divinity (Bible, Philosophy and Practical Ministry)- Mt. Carmel Christian School / Morling College, Leneva, Wodonga, New Zealand]*

1- F) PAGE 5 – DISCUSSION: Once it is revealed that Old Geibel is really Faith’s son, how does that revelation change what we believe about him, Faith and Annette? What is probably going on with him as he observes (with disdain) the young women including his niece, Annette?

- 1) On page 97 we learn there had been an explosion in what was probably a laboratory at Oradea castle which may have been the reason Old Geibel had been summoned to retrieve Faith.
- 2) Annette’s mother was probably Old Giebel’s sister and Faith’s daughter. Annette would actually be Faith’s granddaughter.
- 3) Old Giebel not only disdained the young women’s constant complaining but despised the way Annette treated / disrespected Faith (his mother).

1- G) PAGE 6 – DISCUSSION: What can be deduced about the coach accident that had killed Annette’s parents? Author’s insight / character backstory:

- 1) Within the wreckage is a child's doll that has fallen from a pram (baby buggy). The author provides that as a young child, Annette had been left behind (with a nanny) as her parents went out, driven away in their coach. Annette was upset (angry) that she hadn't been taken along. Upon her parents' arrival home, Annette abruptly pushed her baby doll's pram into the path of the approaching coach that prompted the horses to bolt. The coach overturned, and Annette's parents were killed.
 - 2) Old Geibel would know Annette's history (re. the death of her parents / his sister) and probably had a far greater grievance with Annette than what appears. Faith provides the inspiration Old Geibel needed to create what he might consider the perfect weapon, a mechanical dancer.
- 1- H) PAGE 8 & 9– DISCUSSION:** Knowing Annette's backstory, how does this impact or change Old Geibel's motive in creating a clockwork dancer?
- 1) The importance of Annette's turning 18 may also mean that she would legally be considered "emancipated" and that any influence
 - 2) Old Geibel may have had a stronger motive to hurt / kill Annette in that she had caused the death of Old Geibel's sister (Faith's daughter).
- 1- I) PAGE 10 –** What is indicated when Faith strokes the mechanical dancer's cheek and says, "Though he is neither flesh nor bone, in one way he is superior... He cannot suffer the torments of a broken heart or loves lost."
- 1) Faith presents a clue as to her long history that included numerous loves that were eventually lost to her when she out-lived them.
 - 2) Faith indicates that the mechanical dancer is incapable of feeling emotion including remorse, so dispatching Annette wouldn't be problematic for him (it) on any emotional level.
 - 3) Faith's statement makes Old Geibel nervous as he can't allow Faith to disclose anything about her past. He quickly redirects the conversation / attention back to the clockwork dancer's purpose.
- 1- J) PAGE 11 –** Old Geibel issues a warning, "Be careful that no one knocks against him [the clockwork dancer] as it will surely alter their course."
- 1) It is possible that Old Geibel wanted to ensure the clockwork dancer's "mission" would not be disrupted.
 - 2) Another instance of foreshadowing, Annette correctly predicts her destiny with "I think I shall dance with him the rest of my life." Of course, her life ended that evening in the clockwork dancer's crushing embrace.
 - 3) **PAGE 13 – DISCUSSION:** What did Faith want to find out when she asked Hunter, "Could you really dance with me forever, Mister Brown?" Faith was trying to ascertain if Hunter would be her next "true love."
- 1- K) PAGE 13 – DISCUSSION:** When she loses a hair ribbon, Faith tells Hunter, "I'm no longer perfect." What did she really mean?
- 1) The ribbon's significance / purpose:
 - a) A memento for Hunter so he won't forget Faith (and his goal)
 - b) An allegory that represents Hunter's obsession and his ultimate goal to attain love
 - c) An invitation from Faith to Hunter that could provide justification for Hunter "to call on" Faith at a later time (to return her ribbon to her)
 - d) A "tie that binds" the two of them together not unlike the Celtic tradition of "hand-fasting" that entails a cord or ribbon to be tied around a couple's hands to indicate they are engaged to be married
 - e) A literal "string" that ties the six short stories together
 - 2) Knowing Faith's history of having numerous lovers and having had children with them, she could no longer be considered a virgin.
 - 3) If Faith surmised what was about to happen to Annette while dancing with a "perfect" clockwork dancer, she was, in essence, assuring Hunter that since Faith (a mechanical creature) was "no longer perfect,"

Hunter should not fear her. Unlike the perfect “programmable” clockwork dancer, Faith had the capacity to think and reason, thus making her own decisions.

- 1- L) PAGE 14** – Faith indicates her “programming” that she could only love one man... at a time OR that she was currently bound to one man, Wilhelm Geibel (who she knows is now an aged, dying man / werewolf).
- 1- M) PAGE 16 (AND THE COLOR RED)** – DISCUSSION: What does the color red indicate?
- 1) Red is the color of blood and represents the foreboding danger of a threatening situation.
 - 2) In his attempt to switch off his invention, Old Geibel slips in Annette’s blood, falls, and is mortally wounded. He dies in the days that follow, paying homage to tales where creators are destroyed by their creations, not unlike the Prometheus Myth or Mary Shelley’s *Frankenstein*. This theme sometimes is an allegory or metaphor for a younger generation usurping the authority from the previous, older generation.
 - 3) The message presented by Annette would be, “Be careful what you wish for.”
 - 4) In that the clockwork dancer (in essence) kills Old Geibel, the question is posed that perhaps Old Geibel’s secret deadly intent and vindictiveness toward Annette was punished as “an eye for an eye.”
- 1- N) PAGE 17** – Putting aside his timidity, Hunter establishes his willingness to put himself in danger’s way in order to help / save someone else. Hunter’s willingness and determination to deactivate the clockwork dancer may have demonstrated to Faith that he might elect to do the same to her at some time in the future. This might explain why Faith seemed to vanish from the ballroom and Hunter was unable to bid her a proper farewell.
- 1- O) PAGE 19** – DISCUSSION: With mutual understanding of a shared secret, Old Geibel tells Faith “You know you must go...” Why?
- 1) They both know she can’t continue to exist on her own, that her secret needs to be protected, and that some blame of Annette’s horrific death might be placed onto Faith.
 - 2) We come to recognize that Faith is distraught in watching Old Geibel (her caregiver and son) die.
 - 3) X-TREME DETAILS: When readers “magnify” the newspaper writing, the reader is instructed, “These are words about things and if you’re reading them, you have far too much time on your hands. Put down the magnifying glass and go outside. Now I’m going to repeat...” (And so, it does.) The message encourages readers to not embrace a sedentary lifestyle but to “get out” and participate in, or create adventures of their own devising.
- 1- P) PAGE 20**
- 1) A seemingly depressed, despondent Faith is seated in a chair as Hunter leaves the room (identified by his walking cane first seen on page 2)
 - 2) A framed photo on a table presents a bit of a (foreshadowed) mystery with an unidentified woman standing by Old Geibel behind a seated Faith. DISCUSSION: Is the woman Old Geibel’s sister or perhaps a love interest from his past? [She is Matron Kitt, a close friend and possibly a past love interest of Old Geibel’s.] The gear wheel hints of Faith’s internal mechanics.
 - 3) In the last panel’s street night scene, the misaligned curb and steps symbolize that “all is not as it appears.” Something is a bit “off.”
- 1- Q) PAGE 21**
- 1) Hunter’s narrative “Finding Faith became my obsession” exemplifies how obsession can overpower a person’s judgment and prompts them to veer from reasonable / sensible paths. Obsession can make a person vulnerable. One form of obsession can be a person’s faith (beliefs) where they continue to look for “signs” that urge them on. For Hunter, the telegraph was that sign.
 - 2) The telegraph’s monogram “K” sets up another mystery.

STORY 2: A Wicked Woman by Jack London (Begins page 23)

PURPOSE - Introduction to Victorian travel, rules of courtship, etc. and to contrast innocence vs ignorance.

2- A PAGE 22 - THE RIBBON; a “badge” reminder (perpetuator) of mission and / or obsession.

- 1) Hunter embraced Faith as his obsession; the telegraph provided a “sign” that validated the “righteousness” to be obsessed, therefore giving Hunter “permission” to dedicate himself to it.
- 2) Hunter designates Faith’s ribbon as the constant, physical reminder of, and justification for, his “mission” to find Faith. In what professions and situations is this pattern (and symbols) routinely observed / practiced? (Dedicated leaders, sports fanatics, religious zealotry, addicts & addictions, soldiers, authority figures, etc.)

2- B PAGE 23

- 1) The mysteries from page 20 (the mysterious woman seen in the photo with Old Geibel) and from 21 (the monogram “K”) are solved.
- 2) Faith “ran” to Matron Kitt, a familiar person whom Faith trusted and recognized as a person who cared about Faith’s well-being.
- 3) The only way that Matron Kitt would know to send a telegram to Hunter is Faith asked her to send it. Faith was, indeed, luring Hunter into pursuit (the chase).

2- C PAGES 24 – 33

- 1) The short story “A Wicked Woman” originally written by Jack London intends to demonstrate the difference between innocence and ignorance.
- 2) Page 28 reveals a note signed “Billy,” the name of Faith’s former “lover.” [In the last part of the book we find out that Faith was taken care of by “Wilhelm Geibel.” If one Americanizes his name, it might become “William” which can be shortened to “Will” or “Bill” or (in this case) “Billy.”
- 3) Once the reader learns Faith’s secret (at the end), her silly (ignorant) confusion might be explained in that she may be experiencing a partial recall of a previous life (with Wilhelm).
- 4) “A Wicked Woman” demonstrates Jack London’s ability to elongate tension and maintain his readers’ interest by hinting of, but containing (not revealing), Faith’s (inconsequential) secret.
- 5) Page 30 – 31; Hunter is mesmerized by Faith’s gaze / eyes which seemingly foreshadows that there’s something paranormal about Faith. This falsely supports readers’ suspicions that Faith may be a vampire or other supernatural creature. If considering “Strange Journey” a mystery, this might be considered a “red herring” [which is something that misleads or distracts from a relevant or important issue. It may be either a logical fallacy or a literary device that leads readers or audiences towards a false conclusion.]
- 6) This story reveals more about both characters. Faith desires to be truthful, which demonstrates how much she cares about Hunter and his opinion of her. Hunter’s level of willingness to defend Faith is revealed. Verification that Hunter and Faith are mutually attracted to one another and, of course, the impact / importance of their first kiss.

2- D PAGE 34 - Matron Kitt answers the door and appears to have been crying. DISCUSSION: What might cause Kitt to be so distraught? Was it that Faith had suddenly left or does Kitt know more than she’s telling?

2- E PAGE 35 - 36 – Matron Kitt discloses details of where she thinks Faith may have gone, and that it would be dangerous especially in her description of the coach and its driver that carried Faith away. DISCUSSION: How did she conclude that there are dangers? How might Kitt know of the dangers?

2- F PAGE 37 - Panel 3 – Discuss the questions stated in the narrative (asked by the narrator). Surmise the possible or probable outcomes to the questions.

PART TWO (Pages 38 -70)

STORY 3 – *A Traveler’s Story of a Terrible Strange Bed* by Wilkie Collins (Begins page 41)

PURPOSE -Introduction to mystery and horror genres, character studies, and contrast trust vs. wariness. Beware of others' intentions and listen to your inner voice; heed your gut feelings; consider others' motives.

3-A PAGE 38 – Hunter ventures out of his comfort zone and heads to Paris where he hopes to find help in his quest to find Faith.

3-B PAGE 39 – Hunter reminisces about Francis Cook, his college roommate / friend, and provides a bit of the background of their association / relationship at that time. We see that Cook is a “person of color” whose interests center on topics that permit him to build fantasy civilizations after some heavy drinking. What life circumstances might inspire Cook’s interests? HINT: Discuss the political & military actions of Great Britain regarding occupying / conquering other countries before and during the Victorian era.

3-C PAGE 40 -- Hunter learns that Cook is living a pathetic life in Paris and admits his regret in having contributed to or enabled Cook’s proclivity to overindulge in drinking (alcohol). DISCUSSION: What circumstances might have brought him to Paris? Author’s insight / character backstory: If Francis Cook’s ethnicity was Indian (or another non-white culture colonized by the British); it is possible that he was actually multi-racial, the (illegitimate?) offspring of a British (landowner) father and a non-white female (servant?). In some cases, such offspring of kinder (or far-seeing) British fathers would be sent to Great Britain (and other countries) to obtain higher educations. Unfortunately, mixed-race children and adults had a rough life since it was rare for them to be accepted by either of their ethnic cultures; they were ostracized. – On the other hand, Paris, France became known for its liberal acceptance of / tolerance toward “any and all” so many races, “gender benders,” and multi-nationals funneled into Paris.

3-D PAGE 41 – Cook issues the 2nd warning to Hunter and questions Hunter’s interest in journeying to Eastern Europe. [In panel 2, Cook’s referencing “gate of hell” foreshadows Hunter’s forthcoming experience with Satan, page 67.] Cook seems to empathize with Hunter (with some painful regret) and understand the importance and power of a person’s need for love... and Cook quickly moves from that painful topic into his distracted lifestyle. The following pages provide insight into other addictions (obsessions) that have overtaken Cook.

3-E PAGE 42 - Hunter questions his judgement as he allows himself to be taken into uncomfortable areas by Cook. Why didn’t Hunter heed his own intuition? [Friendship, or the perception of it, can be a deceptive element. Felons who commit fraud often set up the appearance of a close, trustworthy relationship to perpetrate crime.]

3-F PAGE 43 – Coming upon (what becomes known as) a murderous scene occupied by police, Cook hurriedly pushes Hunter into an alleyway. DISCUSSION: Why? Is Cook trying to avoid the authorities or wanting to obscure the potential (probable) peril that will endanger Hunter’s life. Was this Cook’s routine? (The following page provides the answer.)

3-G PAGE 44 – Cook leads Hunter to a clandestine location whose guarded door requires a password for entrance. When Cook states, “It is a game we play,” it becomes obvious that this venture has been Cook’s routine.

3-H PAGE 45 - Cook’s true nature is revealed but with a possible twist in his agenda. He discloses a scheme that indicates he’s probably going to try to perpetrate some sort of fraud with Hunter’s help (and money).

3-I PAGE 46 – 48: We are shown the stages of deception customarily practiced by the card parlor’s crooks (steered by its Hostess); Hunter is their prey facilitated by Cook (not unlike a Judas-goat) who finally realizes what is happening to himself and his friend Hunter, but Cook is unable to stop it.

3-J PAGE 48 - 49 The Hostess determines Hunter’s weakness (in snatching Faith’s ribbon from Hunter’s pocket) and uses the ribbon (Hunter’s obsession) as leverage to manipulate Hunter. Later we’ll learn that the crooks were probably aware of Cook’s agenda and what he was trying to defraud the fraudulent who now had a motive to kill Cook (as a traitor). DISCUSSION: How do these situations compare to actions or activities with present-day gangs?

3-J PAGE 50 – 52 – Hunter is taken to an isolated bedroom where he copes with his circumstance. The Hostess had drugged / poisoned Hunter. DISCUSSION: What options allow that it didn't completely disable him? Author's insight: It's possible that Hunter's having drunk numerous cups of coffee (a stimulant) may have off-set the effects of what may have been a narcotic (a sedative) and permitted Hunter to remain somewhat aware at a lower level of alertness. viewing The thugs that had carried Hunter to this room were most likely too busy "dealing with" Cook to be concerned with Hunter (whom they presumed to be unconscious).

3-K PAGE 53 - Hunter counts. DISCUSSION: What significance or symbolism (if any) might be found on the page? Examples only as many other symbolisms exist:

- 1) 48 florals – If one receives 48 roses, it symbolizes "passion." Another example: "Gautama Buddha, the founder of Buddhism, sat under a Bodhi tree for 48 days attempting to understand the nature of reality. While coping with his disabled state, Hunter soon begins to question his current reality vs. non-reality.
- 2) 8 patterns of stripes – Among many, many others, "The number 8 in the Bible represents a new beginning, meaning a new order or creation, and man's true 'born again' event when he is resurrected from the dead into eternal life." With Hunter's current experience, he may become a different person with heightened awareness.
- 3) 2 broken handles – Two can be philosophical representing the dichotomy of good vs. evil.
- 4) 1 damaged mirror – Romans equated the breaking of a mirror would be followed by 7 years of bad luck, whereas a broken mirror in dreams can be a warning of misfortunes and hard times to come in the near future for the person who dreams about it. – DISCUSSION: Could Hunter consider himself as broken (like the mirror) because he lacks love in his life?
- 5) 4 pins in an oversized pin cushion – Too many symbolisms to note here.
- 6) 5 towering feathers - There are traditionally 5 wounds of Christ: scourging at the pillar, crowning of the thorns, wounds in his hands, wounds in his feet, and the side wound. – DISCUSSION: Is it possible to parallel Hunter's experience with Cook with that of Jesus and Judas or other story of betrayal of one "friend" by another?
- 7) The Spanish cavalier's eyes (in the portrait) gaze upward "as if looking at a gallows" may also be suggestive of one viewing a person who hangs on a cross during crucifixion. DISCUSSION: Was this foreshadowing Hunter's probable, forthcoming demise?
- 8) Hunter finds himself mentally and physically incapacitated by the drugs / poison the Hostess had given him and struggles to overcome this state. DISCUSSION: How does Hunter's struggle (to regain normalcy) parallel the struggle with those who are disabled in the world?

3-L PAGE 54 - The Spanish cavalier in the portrait seems to either warn Hunter or draw Hunter's attention to Faith's hair ribbon. The ribbon acts as a reminder of Hunter's quest (passion) while alerting Hunter to the imminent danger posed by the bed's sinking canopy. DISCUSSION: If Faith is symbolized by the ribbon, is she acting to save Hunter from certain death or is this Hunter's subconscious acting to alert him of the present danger?

3-M PAGE 55 – Hunter understands that "With panic came realization." DISCUSSION: What biochemistry actually occurs when a person panics to trigger our *fight or flight* mechanism? The *fight or flight* survival instinct is triggered as a result of the sudden secretion of catecholamines (especially norepinephrine and epinephrine) as a physiological reaction that occurs in response to a perceived harmful event, attack, or threat to survival; humans (and other animals) become more alert in preparedness to act upon the necessity to fight or take flight (flee). DISCUSSION: Once the danger has passed, what event indicates to Hunter that his "world" has returned to normal? [The portrait's expression has reverted to its original appearance.]

3-N PAGE 57 – A bit of Hunter's youth is disclosed as he remembers his escapades of using a drainpipe to climb down from his room of his childhood home (to his parents' chagrin). Although this memory provides some level of courage and encouragement, Hunter also acknowledges trepidation as he realizes that his life certainly depends on successfully reaching the street, undamaged. DISCUSSION: Give some examples of valuable or useful lessons that youthful

mischief (or experience) can teach us that we might value as adults? Hunter realized what he had to do to survive but was thoughtful about how to go about it. How might this differ if he were a child?

3-O PAGE 58 – Having faced a near death experience, Hunter feels exhilarated and “alive as never before.”

DISCUSSION: How do such threatening experiences impact a person, and how might they change a person? Cook’s (fake) signature hints that he is now (and definitely) an “X” person, as in, formerly alive but now dead. Review the events on page 43. DISCUSSION: From Hunter’s and Cook’s recent experience, what do you now know about the events depicted on page 43 that you hadn’t known at first?

3-P PAGE 59 – DISCUSSION: Since we “accompanied” Hunter while he observed the murderous canopy bed in action, and we see the mechanism that operated on the roof, what can we surmise regarding Cook? (There must be another or other mechanisms like the one depicted on page 59, or that the single machine operated multiple canopies. Which option makes more sense?)

3-Q PAGE 60 – 61 - Hunter hires “a coach for a reason few would. The driver was Romanian.” DISCUSSION: Considering the time period, why wouldn’t others want to hire a Romanian driver? (Fear of the unknown, prejudice, etc.) What does this reveal about Hunter? How is this attitude demonstrated in modern times (now)? Page 61 presents numerous bits of information that may foreshadow things yet to come. From these statements, what do you think might happen to Hunter?

3-R PAGES 62 -63 – The Map of Europe could be used to stimulate discussion about the various aspects of the countries that are depicted with students using smart devices to perform impromptu “flash-find” internet searches, calling out facts about those countries during the Victorian era especially focusing on potential dangers that Hunter might encounter. [How might students help prepare Hunter for what might be ahead?]

STORY 4 - Goodman Brown by Nathaniel Hawthorne (Begins page 66)

PURPOSE – Introduction to psychological terror and contrast suspicion vs. fear. People may not be as they seem (as hypocrites). It’s prudent to understand that people can sometimes have a dark side that can cause harm.

4-A PAGE 66 – In panel 1 Hunter notes the sudden lack of any sound which represents “the quiet before the storm.” In panel 6, Hunter spits out the bitter herb ale onto the (unhallowed) ground which, unbeknownst to him, summons Satan (which is “the storm”). This action and event are coincidentally presented on page 66, panel 6 or 666. .” DISCUSSION: The number 666 occurs in the Bible’s Book of Revelation, chapter 13:18, “*Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six*” and has become (mis)aligned as a symbol for the antichrist. The number actually signifies a “wake up” call that reminds one to pay attention to the reality of the present, to elevate your thoughts, return your focus to love, and through this, allow healing and increased joy and love into your life. (After reading through to page 86, revisit this statement and discuss how it applies to what happens to Hunter in the story.)

4-B PAGE 67 – The Cleric carries a staff bore the head of a snake. DISCUSSION: The snake or serpent has been used as a symbol of evil, power, and chaos from the underworld and as a symbol of fertility, life and healing. The Hebrew word *nachash* for "snake" is associated with divination, including the verb-form meaning to practice divination or fortune-telling. DISCUSSION: The entirety of Hawthorne’s “Goodman Brown” (here) advises to look beyond the surface (façade) of people and / or a situation to find reality and truth. It warns Hunter to not become a false person which he may have a tendency to do as noted from Hunter’s eagerness to hide Faith’s hair ribbon (which represents Hunter’s agenda / mission) from the Cleric. When is it prudent to withhold information versus disclosing it? DISCUSSION: In panel 7, the Cleric states, “I saw you before you saw me” indicating that the shrewd Cleric clearly knew everything about Hunter including Hunter’s incapacity to recognize the Cleric’s true being (as Satan). There are people who have the ability to “read” a person as naïve (thus vulnerable) and will take advantage of them. Where does this behavior easily occur?

[Instances of corrupt leadership, misuse of power, etc.] DISCUSSION: In panel 8, the Cleric’s statement, “What little was sacrificed, the firmament quickly consumed,” means that what a person is willing to sacrifice will be wholly and quickly taken by those whose agenda is to just take (and give nothing in return). What examples of this conduct / attitude can be cited in the present day? [Cite examples of those who perpetrate various types of fraud.]

4-C PAGE 68 – In panel 6, the Cleric demonstrates extreme competency in either knowing or deducing details about Hunter and his mission. In panel 7, the Cleric mimics Cook which harkens back to page 41 to Cook when Cook foretold (warned) of Hunter’s crossing through the gates of hell. DISCUSSION: Invite or cite instances where students may have received a warning that they either failed to heed, or that saved them from certain difficulty. [Example: Don’t touch fire.] How do rules and laws act to [forewarn] protect people?

4-D PAGE 70 – Although Hunter was becoming more uncomfortable with the Cleric’s presence, he wasn’t able to justify his feelings until hearing the strange old woman say, “Devil!” DISCUSSION: Invite students to share examples where they’ve experienced anxiety (undefined fear), and how it resolved.

4-E PAGE 70 - Panel 4 – Discuss the questions stated in the narrative (asked by the narrator). Surmise the possible or probable outcomes to the questions. Review the suppositions proposed from before (questions on page 37) to ascertain if they have come to be.

PART THREE (Pages 71 – 99)

STORY 4 - *Goodman Brown* by Nathaniel Hawthorne (continued)

4-F PAGE 72 - From the conversation between the Cleric and the old woman, deduce who these 2 characters are and they’re relationship to one another.

4-G PAGES 73 - DISCUSSION: In denial, Hunter continues to express disbelief as to what he’s witnessed. Why do people undergo denial, and when can that be dangerous? (It’s better to face reality and react accordingly.)

4-H PAGE 74 – Hunter observes the Cleric’s power as the Cleric transforms a maple sapling into another snake-headed staff before tosses it to Hunter. DISCUSSION: What does this action harken back to and signify? (It references back to the Biblical serpent in the Garden of Eden where the serpent symbolized Satan / evil that enticed Eve with the fruit of knowledge.) How does this scene parallel the Biblical one?

4-I PAGES 75 – 76 – Although afraid of the snake-headed staff, Hunter picks it up. DISCUSSION: What has Hunter learned about himself? [Hunter learned that he was gullible, vulnerable, and open to suggestion. He learned to be warier, less trusting, and to think ahead of possible dangers. Even so, in thinking ahead, Hunter neglected to notice what was happening in the present (to the plant life) in reaction to the staff’s power.] This signifies that no matter how much we think we know, there is always more to learn.

4-J PAGE 77 – Hunter discovers the snake-headed staff allows him to understand foreign language as he overhears the 2 horsemen’s conversation. DISCUSSION: Apply this revelation as to the many ways the staff helped the Cleric. What other “powers” might the staff have?

4-K PAGE 78 – Hunter notes a change in the weather, alluding to the saying, “the calm before the storm,” or forewarning of the storm to come. He observes that the “road was well-worn” as he heads into the storm. Already fearful, any chance of Hunter’s increased dread is circumvented when he hears what he believes to be Faith’s voice. DISCUSSION: Review the previous few pages’ final / last panels. What do they have in common? (The last panel presents a “cliffhanger” or small mystery that promises to be solved on the following page... thus the phrase, “the book was a ‘page-turner’.”

4-L PAGE 79 – Any chance of Hunter giving in to his fear (and abandoning his mission) is completely thwarted when Hunter’s questionable perception of hearing Faith’s voice is substantiated by the appearance of a hair ribbon (matching

the one Hunter carries with him). DISCUSSION: How might the story have changed if Hunter hadn't heard Faith's voice nor seen the hair ribbon? (He might have avoided the next challenge or given up his mission.)

4-M PAGE 80 – Hunter is injured when a tree limb strikes and cuts his forehead. Although bleeding and in pain he continues on demonstrating his resolve to forge onward. DISCUSSION: If the forces of good and evil are in play on pages 79 & 80, what events represent good, and which ones represent evil? (Faith's voice and hair ribbon are evil lures while the branch appears to be an attempt to force Hunter to wake up or... knock some sense back into him. Hunter ignores the latter.)

4-N PAGE 81 – Hunter hears a maddening chorus of voices that appear to mentally / emotionally blind Hunter until he implores divine intervention. DISCUSSION: What should Hunter have realized? (Invoking God holds protection and power against evil.)

4-O PAGE 82 - Hunter recognizes individuals within the crowd that appears. DISCUSSION: How would Hunter be able to identify exactly who these people were, and what might be deduced about Hunter's experience? (He may be having a dream.) Under what circumstance would this "mix" of individuals find themselves together as equals? (They're sinners, equal in their sins, who didn't make it into heaven.) Have you experienced dreams where you simply knew things / people without having prior knowledge of them?

4-P PAGES 83 – 84 – The Cleric provides insight into the sins that members of his "congregation" have committed. DISCUSSION: If Hunter was experiencing a bad dream, what message/s are being presented to him about people, in general? (People can pose as one thing when they're something else.) About Faith? (Hunter accepts Faith as pure and innocent.) DISCUSSION: Have students experienced deception when a person turned out not to be as they initially presented themselves?

4-Q PAGE 85 – The Cleric transforms into his true being, Satan and prepares to victimize/injure (rape) Faith. DISCUSSION: Beginning on page 67, Hunter is being lured, enticed, and tempted by Satan (for 18 pages), yet by Hunter's imploring God's intervention, the entire event is quashed in just 2 panels. What does this indicate or symbolically represent? (Evil takes quite a long time to galvanize a person, where "good" can overcome quickly.) DISCUSSION: What are some current examples of innocent people being victimized? What actions would you be willing to take to help a victim? What actions would be imprudent to take?

EDUCATORS' DEFENSE: *On the grounds that human sexuality and courtship (and the fears and insecurities associated with it) are legitimate topics for literary examination and that (more easily) supernatural literature forms part of the literary canon and can be studied profitably with respect to psychological and religious themes (fear of the unknown, awe at the numinous, good and evil, and how fiction allows us to explore our responses and reactions to each). [C.R., Master of Education, Graduate Diploma of Divinity (Bible, Philosophy and Practical Ministry)- Mt. Carmel Christian School / Morling College, Leneva, Wodonga, New Zealand]*

4-R PAGE 86 – Hunter suddenly (miraculously) finds himself standing alone as "rain washed from me every remnant of that horror." DISCUSSION: What does the rain / washing symbolize? (Cleansing or washing of the soul from sin. Numerous cultures utilize water in their rituals. Research, contrast and compare.)

The final panel indicates that Hunter accepts his "walk in the woods" experience as an hallucination and would prefer to forget about it, yet...

4-S PAGE 87 – Within the pub, Hunter is given a brief reminder that he should not forget the lessons he's learned when he's confronted (again) by those who he'd seen as Satan's congregates. On Page 88, Hunter tosses out the bitter herb ale & Satan's staff. DISCUSSION: What symbolic messages are presented? (Evil and temptation are always present. One must always be aware / alert and continually work to reject evil / negative influences.) What negative factors exist in the world that could damage or devastate your wellbeing? How can they best be avoided?

4-T PAGE 88 – Head bandaged, Hunter awakes within the coach, throws up and throws out the drinking bag and walking stick. **DISCUSSION:** What do these actions symbolize? (Hunter desires to purge from himself all forms of evil; internal / mental / emotional evil (by vomiting) and external / physical / potential (tossing out the walking stick & drink bag). What types of evil really exist and how do people protect themselves from them? In what form does “purging evil” take in the real world?

4-U PAGE 89 – Hunter ties together the 2 lengths of hair ribbon. **DISCUSSION:** What does symbolize? (If there was ever a hint that Hunter’s objective was damaged, he would endure and do whatever it takes to strengthen / repair it in order to continue on.) -- The final panel on the page ends as both a cliffhanger and foreshadows events ahead.

AUTHOR’S NOTE: Elements from STORY 5 - *The Music on the Hill* by H.H. “Saki” Munro and from STORY 6 – *Dracula’s Guest* by Bram Stoker are somewhat blended to form the last section of “A Journey With Strange Bedfellows.”

STORY 5 - *The Music on the Hill* by H.H. “Saki” Munro (Begins page 94)

PURPOSE – Introduction to mythology and to contrast curiosity vs. fear / terror. Don’t take nature’s (or God’s) wrath for granted nor ignore it.

5-A PAGE 90 – **DISCUSSION:** With Hunter awaking in the coach with no sense of time, what might this indicate? (Hunter may be venturing into another nightmare.) His observation of the castle in the distance presents 2 possibilities about the fortification’s intent / purpose that act to foreshadow forthcoming events. The final narrative provides a hint of what will be revealed. **DISCUSSION:** If Faith was taken from this castle so “she might see the world was full of life,” what could this mean about her existence in the castle?

5-B PAGE 91 – The first narrative divulges that the wind shifts which harkens to the saying, “A shift in the wind” that brought with it a scent that distressed the horses. **DISCUSSION:** What does this signify? (Things are about to change and possibly for the worst as verified by the horses’ reaction.) What is learned about the coach driver on this page? (He’s religious and superstitious.) **DISCUSSION:** Using a media translator, determine what the driver was saying in Romanian.

- a. “tata’l, Fiul, Duhul Sfânt, maica lui Dumnezeu” = Father, Son, Holy Spirit, Mother of God
- b. “un loc rau” = a bad place

Hunter had been warned numerous times about this location. Re-read Matron Kitt’s warning on page 35, and Francis Cook’s statement on page 41. Understanding Hunter’s motivation, Francis Cook provided the justification for Hunter’s venturing into danger... love. **DISCUSSION:** Is love a powerful force? Can love to conquer all? Does obtaining love usually mean some type of sacrifice? In reality, what does one routinely / commonly sacrifice for love, or in the name of love? (Biblical reference, “For God so loved the world...”)

5-C PAGE 92 – The abandoned village underscores the severity of the plague and how lack of understanding (of science) impacted people (like the Romanian driver) long afterward. Hunter’s wanting to avoid night travel solidifies his acceptance of lessons learned. **DISCUSSION:** Research and discuss the various aspects, lasting effects, and outcomes of the plague.

5-D PAGES 93 – 95 – Although the Manservant and Mistress Caretaker pose a formidable “roadblock” to thwart Hunter’s entry and progress, Hunter’s bold, but polite, persistence provided him over 24 hours to search the castle for Faith. **DISCUSSION:** What instances have you used polite persistence to achieve an objective? Under what circumstances would this approach probably be inadvisable?

Hunter briefly ponders his experience with a “diabolical” canopy bed. **DISCUSSION:** What does this signify? (Through experience Hunter has achieved growth / maturity and is more aware / wary.)

5-E PAGES 96 - The door to Hunter's room is mysteriously unlocked. Hunter wastes little time pondering who (or what force) unlocked the door. He observed that the Mistress Caretaker was nowhere to be seen and ancestral portraits with strong resemblances. **DISCUSSION:** Speculate possible reasons for Hunter's (three) observations. [The unlocked door: ghost unlocked it, faulty lock, door was never locked, Hunter's imagination? – The Mistress Caretaker is a vampire; the Manservant, her assistant; they would not be seen during daylight. – The portraits are of the same woman (Faith) through the ages; is Faith a vampire?]

5-F PAGE 97 – Hunter discovers ruins containing certain, specific items. **DISCUSSION:** Deduce the earlier use of the site from the remnants. [It was a laboratory (that pays homage to Mary Shelley's "Frankenstein") that was destroyed by fire and probable explosion.]

5-G PAGE 98 - Hunter observes Faith as she tends what appears to be an altar (possibly harkening back to Satan's altar Hunter had previously seen in the forest). **DISCUSSION:** Quickly research to identify the "Greek god" (Pan) depicted on this altar. Compare and contrast Satan and this Greek god. Was Satan's altar and Hunter's encounter there, foreshadowing this instance? As Hunter was lured to Satan's altar, the last panel on this page presents a (Pan's) flute as it begins to play. Given the research about this Greek god, what can be surmised by this? (Pan is luring / calling whom?)

5-H PAGE 99 – Pan's flute calls out to lure a stag which (intentionally or unintentionally) brings into view a large predator. **DISCUSSION:** On page 98 we see how Faith uses grapes to attract Pan, who in turn, plays his flute to lure a stag... which appears to act as bait to draw in a large predator. Compare and contrast how this scene aligns with and/or parallels Hunter's connection to Faith.

PART FOUR (Pages 100 – 120)

STORY 6 – *Dracula's Guest* by Bram Stoker (Begins page 105)

PURPOSE – Provide the story's climax as the protagonist is forced to confront an internal dilemma and to make a choice between loneliness and death. Curiosity holds an element of danger. Discovery, innovation, and invention create both positive and negative outcomes.

6-A PAGE 100 – 102 – Historic Greek mythology provides understanding / explanation of Pan and his power to control especially animals using his flute. The events depicted on these pages indicate that Pan has called a stag that charges Hunter and Faith. **DISCUSSION:** What is Pan (real, imagined, or automaton), and what could possibly motivate Pan to do this?

- Pan is jealous of Hunter and wishes to harm him. (no)
- Faith offers grapes to Pan in exchange for Pan's calling / luring a stag that would ordinarily be a source of food for the werewolf (since the werewolf is old and dying). Pan attracts a food source for the werewolf.
- In knowing the stag is being hunted by the werewolf, Pan is also luring the werewolf back to the castle (and Faith). It's possible that the werewolf (Wilhelm Geibel) and/or Pan is also testing Hunter to see how he reacts to the stag's advance / attack and if Hunter will protect Faith.
- This situation / event may also act to reveal Faith's courage /capabilities to Hunter.

6-B PAGE 103 – We're shown that Faith is courageous and willing to sacrifice herself to protect / save hunter. **DISCUSSION:** What could've happened if Faith had not acted to shield Hunter? How would this impact the story?

6-C PAGE 104 – It's clear that the wolf (werewolf) isn't interested in harming Faith or Hunter. **DISCUSSION:** What possible motivations does the wolf (werewolf) have in attacking the stag? (Hunger and protecting especially Faith.)

6-D PAGE 105 – Upon waking from unconsciousness in the dark of night, Hunter finds Faith's lantern has been left for him along with another mystery (a blood trail) to solve. **DISCUSSION:** Hunter could take this opportunity to give up his quest. Why doesn't he?

- Pride, anger, insult
- So much time / effort invested to give up now.
- Curiosity about the blood trail and who left the lantern for him.

- Love for and devotion to Faith

6-E PAGE 106 – 107 – Finding himself in the estate’s graveyard, Hunter contemplates his experiences with Walpurgis Nacht. DISCUSSION: Speculate as to the reason for all the open graves beyond grave robbers. (Bodies needed for experimentation, zombies, or some evil force opened and removed bodies from them?)

6-F PAGE 108

1. In approaching a burial vault, Hunter observes a copper pike whose surface crawls with luminescent energy. DISCUSSION: Speculate as to what the spike is (an innovative power source based in Nikola Tesla’s early work) and how it came to be “driven through” the roof of the vault. (Referring back to page 97, a laboratory had been destroyed by an apparent explosion. It’s possible that the copper pike may have originally been located in the lab and had been propelled, as a projectile, during the explosion to impale the roof of the burial vault. Having lost the former laboratory, the “scientist” set up operations in the vault.)
2. DISCUSSION: Irony. (Hunter’s need to hide from a night prowling wolf only to discover his shoes are covered in blood.)

6-G PAGE 109 – Hunter finds himself cornered by an enormous wolf that doesn’t attack. DISCUSSION: Why doesn’t the wolf (werewolf) attack? (The injured and dying werewolf has, in essence, guided Hunter to this place for his own reasons and simply stimulates Hunter’s fear to persuade Hunter to enter the burial vault.)

6-H PAGE 110 - DISCUSSION: What is revealed about Hunter from his actions / words on this page?

- He’s willing to choose the danger of the unknown over certain harm.
- He’s spiritual and respectful of the dead.
- His curiosity overcomes his fears.

6-I PAGE 111 – Faith’s secret is revealed. DISCUSSION: Did students predict that Faith was a robot, or were they led to think she was a vampire? What information misleads them to think “vampire?” Now knowing Faith’s secret, re-read pages 8 – 14, page 19-20, and discuss visual “hints,” along with Faith’s and Old Geibel’s actions and words; what students thought they meant vs. what they really meant.

6-J PAGE 112 – The machine that facilitates Faith’s immortality is explained by the Mistress Caretaker who encourages Hunter to let “nature” runs its course, to allow Faith to “die” when the machine fails and encourages Hunter, once again, to leave. DISCUSSION: Beyond repairing / healing Faith’s recent wounds, what else must the machine do? (Prevents aging and, most likely, maintains Faith’s body as “untouched” and perfect. DISCUSSION: Students should research artificial intelligence (Ai) then re-read page 13 to discuss the importance of Faith’s realizing her own imperfection. How does self-awareness align with current theories of artificial intelligence vs. true sentience*? Would Faith possibly evolve or improve each time the machine repairs / revitalizes her? (No; it would most likely return her to her original level of Ai. Only through experience and retained memory would Faith progress.)

* The capacity to feel, perceive or experience subjectively. Eighteenth-century philosophers used the concept to distinguish the ability to think (reason) from the ability to feel (sentience).

6-K PAGE 113 – We learn Pan’s true purpose; to call / signal the werewolf, and that the Man Servant and Mistress Caretaker are fearfully wary of the wolf (werewolf). DISCUSSION: Research character archetypes to determine what Pan is and cite the traits that evidence him as a “Sidekick.”

6-L PAGE 114 – Faith’s affection for the wolf (werewolf) is revealed. DISCUSSION: Where does this revelation place Hunter regarding his relationship with Faith?

6-M PAGE 115 - Faith's relationship with the werewolf is revealed that, as a scientist, Wilhelm Geibel maintained Faith, and that they were a couple who had produced a son (Old Geibel) and daughter (Annette's mother).

1. **DISCUSSION:** Create a family lineage tree to uncover the actual relationships of Faith with Wilhelm Geibel, Nicholas "Old" Geibel, Old Geibel's sister (Annette's mother), and Annette. What relationship is Faith to Annette? (Faith is Annette's grandmother.)
2. **DISCUSSION:** From hints presented in the graphic novel, estimate how old Faith might be.
3. **DISCUSSION:** How do Hunter's feelings change toward the wolf/ werewolf, and why?

6-N PAGE 116 – The werewolf transformation (into a human) was incomplete, and he was unable to communicate, Hunter seemed to understand what the creature was trying to say. **DISCUSSION:** Discuss how humans can communicate without speaking, e.g., with babies, pets, those unable to speak, etc.

6-O PAGE 117 – Hunter is pressed to make a decision that will change his life forever for the better or for the worst.

1. **DISCUSSION:** Discuss real life situation where people must make immediate life and death decisions that impact their destiny. (This could include medical professionals, members of the military, parents, terrorists, criminals, etc.)
2. **DISCUSSION:** Hunter remembers Satan's last words to him (page 87). How did their meaning change from then to when Hunter remembered them here? If Hunter sacrifices his being (to become a werewolf), what might this mean for Hunter's eternal soul at death?

6-P PAGE 118 – Both Hunter and the werewolf (Wilhelm Geibel) have both decided to "sacrifice all for love."

1. **DISCUSSION:** Contrast and compare what is sacrificed by Hunter vs. the werewolf.
2. **DISCUSSION:** On an international, domestic, or personal level, select someone in real life who's sacrificed to achieve a goal. What was sacrificed to achieve the goal?

6-Q PAGE 119 – The denouement: the room is identically described as it was on page 1.

1. **DISCUSSION:** What does this tell us about the story? (The story was told in retrospect.)
2. **DISCUSSION:** Note the different appearance of the taxidermy animals from page 1. (They appear more sinister on page 119 than on page 1). What might this indicate about Hunter? (His perspective of events and/or the world was kinder and more innocent at the beginning of the story. This change foreshadows an alteration of Hunter's mindset that occurred which is confirmed in the final panel with the change of his physical appearance.)

6-R PAGE 120 – The panels provide some hints of the life now shared by Faith and Hunter. **DISCUSSION:** Discuss what their lives may be like, and what you'd like to see happen for them in the future.

THE BIG PICTURE:

DISCUSSION: Consider each character in the story and discuss what each sacrificed (by choice or circumstance), and to what end.